

Ac. 4412(3)

DOVER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1970

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J.A. Byrne, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.&H.  
Medical Officer of Health.



## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor Mrs. F.J. Harvey.

### Councillors

Mrs. E.K. Bridgstock  
Mrs. F.J. Harvey  
Mrs. J.E. Heath  
Mrs. E.A. Manley  
G.E. Hearne (January-May)  
J.L.N. Natcott-West (January-May)  
W.J. Parkin  
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G.W. Blackburn J.P.  
J.G. Moore (May-December)  
C.D. Souton (May-December)

### OFFICERS AND STAFF

Clerk to the Authority:

A. Syrett, M.B.E., D.M.A., F.C.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health:

J.A. Byrne, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H., D.T.M.&H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

J.Ll.T. Graham, L.R.C.P.I., L.R.C.S.I., L.M.

Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector:

W.O. Armstrong, M.R.S.H.

Assistant Surveyor and Additional Public Health Inspector:


J.K. Freathy, M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant and Additional Public Health Inspector:

F.G. Ward, M.A.P.H.I.

### Clerical Assistants

Mrs. J. Allen  
Miss V.A. Bell  
Miss N.R. Condor (January)  
Miss A.M. Parfitt (March-December)



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Health Department,  
86, Maison Dieu Road,  
Dover, Kent.

To: Chairman and Members of the Dover Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All too soon with the passage of time it is once again my statutory duty to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions in the area of the Dover Rural District during 1970.

A further increase of 230 in the Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population to 15,080 means almost a 50% increase on the census figure of some 20 years ago.

The birth and death rates when adjusted for comparative purposes compare very favourably with the national rates. Still-births during 1970 numbered 4, one less than in the previous year; nonetheless the rate of 18 per 1,000 total live and still births was five higher than the national rate. It is pleasing to record a new low in the number of infant deaths returned; only two such occurred, one being due to prematurity and the other to a cancerous condition. Deaths from cancer equalled numerically those of the previous year, although those attributed to pulmonary and bronchial sites were three less. With the mention of lung cancer comes immediately to mind the subject of smoking which when practised to excess has been indisputably proved to be associated with respiratory and coronary disease; in spite of the massive anti-smoking publicity and educational measures, it is distressing still to see many of the younger generation, even of school age, indulging in the habit and it would seem that greater stress should be placed on its dangers in our educational establishments, and stricter parental control and example exercised.

The mains water supply to the District serving all but 19 of the houses in the district is from the Folkestone and District Water Company and I am pleased to record an agreed sampling procedure with the Engineer and Manager of the Company ensuring full coverage of the various sources and points of delivery, and a full interchange of information. It is gratifying also to record the progress being maintained in the provision of main drainage schemes in the District.

Apart from the increase in the number of notifications of measles, the incidence of infectious disease calls for no special comment. Reference to the returns published by courtesy of the County Medical Officer will show that there was a marked increase in the numbers of children receiving protective immunisation and vaccination measures during the year although it is to be hoped that further advantage will be taken of the offer of measles vaccination. Notifications of tuberculosis numbered three only and in this connection brief reference should be made to the reduction in the mass miniature radiography units during 1970: this service was established for the detection of respiratory tuberculosis by



surveys of factory and office staffs and of the general public, but in the view of the Department of Health and Social Security the proportion of new cases now found by these surveys did not justify continuation of the work although provision should still continue to be made for the examination of volunteers from the general public by hospital static units until an assessment was possible of the demand for their use. Locally, ample facilities remained available with weekly or fortnightly sessions in neighbouring towns, although of course fixed times and days imposed limitations.

Skeleton proposals for the reform of the Local Government Service and the reorganisation of the National Health Service, together with the plans for the redevelopment and centralizing of our hospital, accident and emergency services are the current subjects of debate and discussion; whatever the outcome, and it must be acknowledged that development and change are inevitable and indeed, to my mind, overdue in many fields, it is to be sincerely hoped that in the end result local interest, opinion, and representation will be retained to the fullest degree possible.

Once again, it is my pleasure to place on record the value of the support and co-operation so willingly given by Mr. Armstrong and his staff during the year, and to express my sincere thanks to you and to the Chief Officers and staffs of the remaining Departments of the Council for the courtesy and assistance extended to both myself and my Deputy.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

J.A. BYRNE

Medical Officer of Health





## SECTION A

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The district is bounded roughly as follows:- On the north by the Rural Districts of Bridge-Blean and Eastry and the Borough of Deal; on the east by the sea; on the south by the Borough of Dover, the sea and the Borough of Folkestone; and on the west by the Rural Districts of Elham and Bridge-Blean.

The following Civil Parishes are situated within the boundary:-

Allham, Capel-le-Ferne, Denton with Wootton, Guston, Hougham-Without, Langdon, Lydden, Ringwould, Shepherdswell with Coldred, St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Temple Ewell with River, Whitfield.

Area (including inland water) - 25,746 acres.

Population: (a) Estimated mid-year Home population - 15,080  
(b) 1961 Census figures - 11,467  
(c) 1951 Census figures - 10,504

(NOTE: All rates are calculated on the Registrar General's estimated mid-year Home population of 15,080).

Number of dwellings - 5,463

Rateable Value - £589,701

Sum represented by 1d rate - £2,340

Density of population - Persons per acre 0.58

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### EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

1. Births: (Figures as supplied by Registrar General)

(a) Registered live births:-

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Legitimate	106	105	211
Illegitimate	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
	110	109	219
	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

Comparability Factor = 1.47

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population .. .. 14.5

Crude Legitimate Live Births per 1,000 estimated  
population .. .. 14.0

Crude Illegitimate Live Births per 1,000 estimated  
population .. .. 0.5

Adjusted Live Birth Rate for comparative purposes .. .. 21.3

(b) Stillbirths:-

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) = 18



## 2. Deaths:

The figures used in this Report are those compiled from local returns adjusted for inward and outward transfers. The number of deaths registered during 1970 numbered 139, outward transfers 30 and inward transfers 65, giving a net allocation of 174. This figure is one more than that supplied by the Registrar General, male deaths totalling 2 more and female deaths 1 less.

The death classification is obtained from the information submitted by the Local Registrar in his weekly returns.

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Registered	89	85	174

Comparability Factor:- 0.72

Crude death rate per 1,000 population - 11.54

Adjusted for comparative purposes - 8.31

## 3. Infant Mortality: Deaths under 1 year:

	Male:	Female:	Total:
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 Live Births = 9

## 4. Deaths rates from cancer per 1,000 Home Population:

Dover Rural District: England and Wales:

(i) Lungs and Bronchus	0.398	0.617
(ii) Other	1.92	1.773
All forms	2.318	2.390

Age groups in which deaths from cancer occurred:

Site:	0 - 4		15 - 24		25 - 44		45 - 64		65 - 74		75 & over	Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	F.
Stomach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	2 1
Lung, Bronchus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	2	-	5 1
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	- 2
Other Sites	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	4	3	1	5	5	14 10
Total	2	-	-	-	2	-	2	8	8	1	7	5	21 14



## 5. Causes of Death in 1970 and Age Groups

The following classification of the deaths for the District is compiled from the local information only and may vary to a small degree from that published by the Registrar General.

Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
Malignant Neoplasm - Intestine .....	5	3	8
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach.....	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast.....	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus.....	5	1	6
Malignant Neoplasm - Prostate.....	2	X	2
Leukaemia .....	-	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms.....	7	6	13
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms .....	1	-	1
Diabetes Mellitus .....	-	1	1
Meningitis .....	1	-	1
Other diseases of Nervous System .....	1	1	2
Chronic Rheumatic heart Disease .....	1	3	4
Hypertensive Disease .....	2	2	4
Ischaemic Heart Disease .....	21	11	32
Other Forms of Heart Disease .....	4	13	17
Cerebrovascular Disease .....	7	19	26
Other Diseases of Circulatory System .....	1	4	5
Influenza .....	-	1	1
Pneumonia .....	4	7	11
Bronchitis and Emphysema .....	8	3	11
Other Diseases of Respiratory System.....	1	-	1
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System .....	2	1	3
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	1	X	1
Other diseases Genito-urinary system .....	3	-	3
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal system .....	1	1	2
Congenital Anomalies.....	1	-	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality .....	1	-	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions.....	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accident .....	2	-	2
All other accidents .....	3	1	4
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries .....	1	-	1
All other external causes .....	-	1	1
TOTAL .....	89	85	174





Age Groups in which Deaths occurred:

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	2	-	2
1 year	-	-	-
2-4 years	2	-	2
5-14 years	-	-	-
15-24 years	-	-	-
25-44 years	6	2	8
45-64 years	23	12	35
65-74 years	26	16	42
75 and over	30	55	85
TOTALS	89	85	174

6. Comparative Rates:

	<u>Dover Rural District:</u>		<u>England and Wales</u>
	1969	1970	1970
Per 1,000 Population			
Births:			
Live Births Crude	17.2	14.5	
Live Births			
Adjusted	25.3	21.3	16.0
Stillbirths:			
Per 1,000 total			
live and still			
births	19	18	13
Deaths:			
Crude	13.0	11.54	
Adjusted	9.49	8.31	11.7
Infant Deaths: (per			
1,000 live births)			
All causes under			
1 year	20	9	18
	(5 deaths)	(2 deaths)	
Maternal Mortality: (per			
1,000 total (Live and			
Still) Births):			
All causes	-	-	0.18





## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### Laboratory Facilities:

Clinical material for examination may be submitted to the Local Hospital Laboratory Service as well as to the Public Health Laboratory at Maidstone where all routine examinations of samples of milk, water etc. are carried out.

#### Hospitals:

There are no hospitals situated within the Rural District but three hospitals in the Borough of Dover, which are administered by the South East Metropolitan Regional Board, provide appropriate facilities for general, medical, surgical, geriatric assessment, maternity and infectious cases.

St. Augustine's Nursing Home, Kearsney, a privately run home, admits medical and surgical cases.

#### Nursing and Midwifery Services:

The Kent County Council, as the administrative Authority responsible, provides these services in the Rural area, and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer for the following information on the work of the services during 1970:-

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| (a) Number of attendances (including casual visits) | = 7,399 |
| (b) Number of births attended                       |         |
| - Domicilaries                                      | = 43    |
| - In Hospital                                       | = 42    |

#### Clinics and Welfare Centres:

The County Council as the Local Health and Education Authority provides various specialist and consultant services for expectant and nursing mothers, infants, toddlers, and children of school age, including ophthalmic, child guidance and speech therapy clinics.

The Regional Hospital Board also provides local clinic services including facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and venereal disease.



SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply:

Parishes	Estimated No. of dwellings N.B. 1961 Census and New Houses 62-70 incl.	No. of Dwellings on Mains Water	No. of Wells and/ or rain water tanks
Alkham	200	192	7
Capel-le-Ferne	641	630	6
Denton with Wootton	109	106	2
Guston	219	219	
Hougham-Without	152	143	2
Langdon, Martin & Martin Mill	177	170	
Lydden	233	231	
Ringwould (incl. Kingsdown)	620	609	
St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe	827	812	1
Shepherdswell with Coldred	539	524	
Temple Ewell with River	548	541	
Whitfield	1198	1116	1
TOTAL:	5463	5444	19
NOTE: There are two houses and one caravan provided with external standpipes only, 2 in Alkham, 1 in Capel-le-Ferne.			

Over 99% of the houses in the Rural District are supplied from the public mains. The 12 parishes in the District are now all supplied by the Folkestone and District Water Company.



## Drainage and Sewerage

Work was started on the Alkham sewerage scheme and was still in progress at the end of the year. Phase III of the Temple Ewell scheme was completed and brought into use during the year. There are now main drainage schemes serving Capel-le-Ferne, Whitfield; Shepherdswell, Coldred, Lydden, Temple Ewell with River, Kingsdown, Ringwould, St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe, Langdon and Guston. These systems discharge into the sewers of the adjoining Local Authorities of Dover, Folkestone and Deal.

Sewage is otherwise disposed of by cesspools, septic tanks, pail closets and chemical closets.

The supervision of the conversion of existing drainage systems to main drainage is under the control of the Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector. A free emptying service of cesspools and a restricted emptying service for pail closets is operated by the Council under direct labour. A charge is levied where a public sewer has been available for use for more than 1 year.

Number of houses on main drainage	3938
Estimated number of houses on cesspools and septic tanks	1467
Number of pail closets and chemical closets	58
The number of cesspool emptyings during the last year was	1702
The number of loads was	4030 $\frac{1}{4}$

Pail closets are emptied, if required, once a week during the nine months of the year, and twice a week during the three summer months. The total emptyings over the year being 3250.

## Refuse Collection:

The collection and removal of domestic refuse and the collection of waste paper salvage is carried out by direct labour under the supervision of the Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector. A separate fortnightly waste paper collection was introduced during the year and this has resulted in a considerable increase in the volume of salvage collected. An electric baling press was purchased and this has facilitated the baling and removal of waste paper after collections.

Paper sacks are now issued to each house where refuse collection is due over a National Public Holiday period, and these are collected with the next regular collection. The scheme has been well received by the Council's employees and the householders concerned.

The number of dustbins emptied during the year	
was	385,930
Weights of waste paper sold	65.05 tons
Amount received from the sale of waste paper	£734.04



Factories Act, 1961

(i) Registered Factories:

With mechanical power	-	20
Without mechanical power	-	15
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	-	6

41

(ii) Inspections:

Premises	Inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories with mechanical power	25	NIL	NIL
Factories without mechanical power	15	NIL	NIL
Other premises	6	NIL	NIL
	46	NIL	NIL

(iii) Defects:

Found		Remedied	No. of defects Referred to H.M.		by Inspector	No. of cases in which Prose- cutions were Instit- uted
Want of cleanli- ness	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Sanitary Conveniences:- Unsuitable or defective	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

Verminous Premises: There were 2 reports of verminous premises







### Destruction of Rats and Mice:

Gassing and trapping and poisoning are carried out by a full-time Rodent Operator. Regular surveys of the area have been made during the year.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:-

Number of infestations found and treatments carried out:

Rats, major	Nil
Rats, minor	167
Mice, major	Nil
Mice, minor	11

Estimated kill:

Rats	756
Mice	40

Number of bodies found:

Rats	294
Mice	40

Sewer baiting was carried out in three areas, and there were "no takes" in all cases.

### Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

There are 10 sites licensed for a total of 617 holiday caravans in the district for the summer months;

viz. Capel-le-Ferne - 6 Hougham-Without - 2  
Martin Mill - 1 Whitfield - 1

Two sites at Capel-le-Ferne are licensed for a total of 22 residential caravans. These sites are generally well operated and controlled. There are two transit sites licensed for 105 tents and/or caravans, attached to existing holiday sites.

### Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957

Five premises are now licensed, and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory. Liason has also taken place with the Diseases of Animals Inspector of the County Council.

### Shops, Offices and Railway Premises Act, 1963

The total number of inspections and re-inspections during the year was 21.



Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963

The Public Health Department is responsible for the supervision of four establishments registered under the above-mentioned Act.

Inspections were made with the Local Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. and satisfactory conditions were maintained generally.

Public Health Inspection of the Area

Regular, routine and other inspections were carried out throughout the Rural District.



## SECTION D

### HOUSING

One Demolition Order and One Closing Order were made in respect of two dwellings. A formal undertaking to carry out repairs was accepted in respect of one dwelling.

Informal action was taken to secure repairs to several other dwellings.

Improvement Grants - 19 applications for Discretionary Improvement Grants were submitted to the Council, one was refused and 18 approved. The total cost of the schemes approved amounted to £27,357 and the grants to £8,377. Five schemes were completed during the year.

10 applications for Standard Grants were approved, and the total maximum of the grants permitted amounted to £1906. Eight schemes were completed during the year.

The improved provisions and extensions of the Improvement Grant scheme under the Housing Act 1969 created new interest in Discretionary Grants and from the number of enquiries dealt with the increase in the number of applications should continue in 1971.

New dwellings - One hundred and six dwellings were completed by private enterprise during the year and one hundred and one were under construction at the end of the year.

Eight dwellings were completed by the Council and in addition "Manley House", Whitfield comprising 4 - 2 person units, 32 - 1 person units for elderly persons and a warden's house was completed and occupied. This unit incorporates a communal lounge, facilities for visitors and laundry facilities. The building is centrally heated and each unit is self-contained so far as living, sleeping and toilet arrangements are concerned. Bathroom or shower facilities are provided for each block of 4 - 1 person units and 2 person units have their own bathroom.



## SECTION E

### INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### Milk:

During the year regular visits were made to registered premises:-

- (a) Number of Registered Distributors 31
- (b) Number of Registered Dairies 3

#### Food and Drugs Act, 1955

Under Section 16(1)(a) of the above Act, 52 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream. Pre-packed ice-cream supplied by large manufacturing companies is sold by 51 of those premises, and only one deals in loose ice-cream sold from a special type deep freeze cabinet.

Under Section 16(1)(b) five premises are registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

187 visits were made during the year to registered food premises and shops in the district.

7 investigations were made into complaints of sale of unsound food viz:-

- 1 mouldy fruit pie
- 1 mouldy ham and egg pie
- 1 salmon fish cake (suspected foreign body)
- 1 mouldy cheese
- 1 tin spaghetti with tomato and cheese sauce (defective tin)
- 1 packet sausage rolls (mould growth)
- 1 mouldy loaf

All these cases were thoroughly investigated with the vendors and in some cases wholesalers and producers.

After careful consideration of all the explanations put forward, warnings were given but no formal action.

#### Foodstuffs condemned during 1970:

The following foodstuffs were surrendered as being unfit for human consumption:-

- 2 cwts. 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. fish
- 1 cwt. 18 lbs. canned meats
- 2 cwts 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. other canned or packaged foods
- 1 cwt. 63 lbs. other food.





The principal cause of condemnation was failure of electrical refrigerators due to mechanical faults or power failure.

All food condemned is surrendered to the Public Health Inspector, and removed to the Council's refuse tip, where it is buried.

The shops continued to return most unsound canned foodstuffs to the wholesaler without calling in the Local Authority.

Food Poisoning:

There were no notified cases of suspected food poisoning during the year although two cases of salmonella typhi murium infection were proved. These concerned a husband and wife who had returned from a continental holiday and although there was no direct evidence that the infection was food-borne, this was a distinct possibility.



## SECTION F

### PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

1. Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) notified during 1970 by Age Groups (Corrected):

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Infective Jaundice	Whooping Cough	Dysentery
Age Unknown	-	4	-	-	-
Under 1 year	-	4	-	1	-
1 year	-	13	-	-	-
2 years	-	13	-	-	-
3 years	-	12	-	-	-
4 years	-	11	-	-	-
5-9 years	1	44	-	-	-
10-14 years	-	2	-	-	-
15-24 years	-	-	4	-	-
25-44 years	-	-	1	-	1
45-64 years	-	-	-	-	-
65 years & over	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	103	5	1	1

### 2. Immunisation and Vaccination:

The schemes for Whooping Cough and Diphtheria immunisation and Smallpox Poliomyelitis and Measles vaccination continued under the administration of the Kent County Council, and the following statistics for 1970 are made available by the courtesy of the County Medical Officer:-

#### (a) Whooping Cough Immunisation:

271 children received primary and 61 reinforcing immunisation.

#### (b) Diphtheria Immunisation:

Number of children resident in the Rural District of Dover who received:-

- (i) Primary Inoculations - 285
- (ii) Reinforcing Inoculations - 205



(c) Smallpox Vaccination:

In view of the amendment of the County Council's proposals under Section 26 of the National Health Services Act, 1926 regarding records of vaccination against Smallpox, the following is the sole information now available:-

Primary Vaccination  
1 year

119

(d) Poliomyelitis Vaccination:

Figures for 1969 based on the returns submitted to the Ministry of Health:-

Year of Birth	Primary	Reinforcing
1970	14	-
1969	169	-
1968	58	-
1967	14	-
1966	2	17
1963-65	-	220
1954-62	-	12
TOTAL	257	249

(e) Measles Vaccination:

181 children in the Rural area received measles vaccination.



### 3. Tuberculosis - Annual Statement of Cases:

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
(a) Number of cases of tuberculosis on Register as at 1.1.70	9	2	2	1
(b) Number of cases notified under Regulations of 1952 for first time during year	2	-	1	-
(c) Other additions to Register	-	1	-	1
(d) Cases removed from Register during the year including recoveries or deaths (excluding deaths of unnotified cases).	3	-	1	1
(e) Cases on Register at end of 1970	8	3	2	1

Deaths from tuberculous causes of notified and unnotified cases of tuberculosis - Nil.

The male patients notified as suffering from pulmonary infection were aged 38 and 59 years; the non-pulmonary notification was aged 40.

Of the patients whose names were removed from the Register, two were regarded as "Recovered", two died and one was "lost sight of".

#### Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925:

No action was necessary in regard to any tuberculous person employed in the milk trade.

#### Public Health Act, 1936: Section 172:

No action was necessary with regard to the compulsory removal of tuberculosis patients to hospital during the year.

#### Disinfection:

The Rural District Council does not possess a disinfecting plant, and where necessary, infected bedding or clothing could be disinfected by arrangement with a neighbouring Authority, but no disinfection was required during the year.







